



# **The Narrative Turn in Fiction and Theory: The Crisis and Return of Storytelling from Robbe-Grillet to Tournier (Palgrave Studies in Modern European Literature)**

*Hanna Meretoja*

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*The Narrative Turn in Fiction and Theory* relates the recent theoretical surge of interest in narrative to the revival of storytelling in fiction, particularly perceptible in France, where the preceding crisis of storytelling was exceptionally intense. It analyses the philosophical and historical underpinnings of the postwar crisis and return of storytelling, and shows how fiction explored ideas integral to the ongoing discussion of the significance of narrative for human existence, in advance of their theoretical articulation. While the *nouveaux romanciers* and postwar intellectuals believed that narratives violently impose order on the disorder of experience, the return of storytelling entails critical reflection on the ethical potential and dangers in our inevitable entanglement in cultural narratives.

Hanna Meretoja contributes to contemporary narrative studies by developing a narrative hermeneutics which envisages storytelling as a process of reinterpreting experiences in a dialogical relation to cultural models of narrative sense-making. By bringing theory and fiction of the narrative turn into a dialogue, she proposes a framework for a historically sensitive study of the philosophical (ontological, epistemological, ethical, aesthetic) dimensions of different conceptions of narrative and suggests how to tie more intimately narrative theory to the study of narrative in literary history.

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